

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has amended claim 1 to indicate that the flue gas has a humidity:mass ratio, and the flue gas has cooled while maintaining the approximate humidity:mass ratio of the flue gas. Further, the claims have been amended to indicate that the flue gas contains dust and a pollutant. Applicant would request reconsideration of these claims in light of the cited art.

Previously, the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 103 in light of the Kato et al. reference, and, optionally, in light of the disclosure in the Johnson et al. reference. Applicant would maintain that neither of these references discloses cooling the gas while maintaining the humidity:mass ratio of the flue gas. Specifically, the Kato et al. reference clearly seeks to utilize a dry flue gas. Therefore, it would be logical to decrease the humidity:mass ratio. Johnson et al. appears to wish to increase the humidity of the flue gas. Thus, the step of cooling the flue gas while maintaining the humidity:mass ratio is apparently not disclosed by either of these references.

Applicant has further amended claim 20 to correct an apparent error. This is now comparable to amended claim 39. Claim 39 was amended to indicate that the alkaline material is ammonia or an ammonia derivative. This would seem to be required in order to liberate ammonia or an ammonia derivative upon elevation of the temperature. In both claims 1 and 39, the "or" from the first line has been removed and substituted with "and" to indicate that the flue contains dust and a pollutant. This should overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112.

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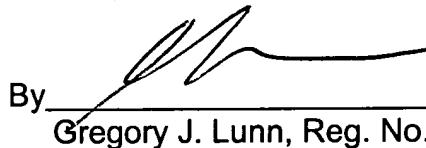
Further, applicant would request specific consideration of the claim 39. Neither Kato et al. nor Johnson et al. discloses the concept of exposing the pollutant laden liquid to elevated temperatures to liberate ammonia or an ammonia derivative from the liquid, and subsequently reusing the ammonia or ammonia derivative. For that reason, this claim is believed to be both new and unobvious in light of the cited art.

Accordingly, applicant would respectfully request allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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